



Grand Master's Bulletin 2022-01
April 25, 2022

A Covenant with the Social Order of the Beauceant

To the Sir Knights of the Grand Encampment Knights Templar of the United States of America, greetings in the name of our Supreme Grand Master, Jesus Christ.

Many of you know that I have had a "love affair" with the Social Order of the Beauceant for a long time. My grandmother and great aunt were members and past presidents in Texas. My mother was a member and past president, my late wife and my two daughters were also members in California. My Lady Ms. Kimberly Burnett is a past president in Ohio and Past Supreme Worthy President. My admiration for this beautiful Christian Order and the service they provide to their membership, as well as our Christian Order is deeply rooted and resolute.

Like many masonic related organizations, the Social Order of the Beauceant is suffering from a decline in membership and participation. Historically, the SOOB began solely with the wives or widows of knights templar. Adjustments were made to include additional family relationships; but something else began to occur which I believe needs our immediate attention.

For unknown reasons, the closeness of our two Orders began to subside. Local commanderies began to lessen their support of local assemblies, both financially, and in promoting their beautiful Order. The results are that without our support, the assemblies have dwindled or vanished from many states.

Sir Knights, these beautiful Christian ladies need our renewed vigor and vision if they are to have any chance of continuing to serve our Knightly Order and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Accordingly, at the 2022 Grand Conclave of Texas, I proclaimed to the sir knights, sisters of the SOOB and honored guests that a covenant now exists between our two Orders. It is my direction that all Grand, Subordinate and Constituent Commanderies strive to assist the Social Order of the Beauceant in the promotion of their Order. I will expect the leadership of the Grand Encampment to participate in this directive by reviewing what is being done in each commandery they visit or inspect. I recommend that every sir knight view the short video clip located on the SOOB webpage attached to GEKT website. Further information on how a commandery may help in this project will be forthcoming in department conferences.

My beloved knights, this is a necessary and worthwhile endeavor for all of us. We cannot and will not fail in this mission.

Let me share some of the history of their beautiful Order with you:

The Social Order of the Beauceant originally started at the suggestion of the Commandery in Denver, Colorado. Asked to host the 25th Triennial Conclave for the Grand Encampment of the Knights Templar which was to be held in their city in August 1892, the Sir Knights felt with only one Commandery and a membership of just over three hundred they needed help. Their wives agreed to supply the help.

The decision was made to expand when the ladies assisted their sir knights for the 1913 Triennial. It was then that the first members from other cities were initiated. From that small start, the order expanded to over 15,000 members.

Sadly, there are now less than 3,000 members within 46 Assemblies across the country.

Beautiful and impressive, the Beauceant ritual contains many lessons which are in direct line with Templary, telling the story of the Poor Fellow Soldiers of Jesus Christ. Exemplification is by a cadre of seventeen officers in the local Assemblies and nineteen officers in the Supreme Assembly.

Eligibility to Membership – wives, widows, mothers, sisters, daughters and granddaughters of Knights Templar of United States of America, or mothers, sisters, daughters, and granddaughters of a member, who are, or were at time of death in good standing in a Commandery or an Assembly are eligible to membership. A petitioner must be at least 18 years of age at the time of petitioning.

One of the most basic landmarks of the order is the admonition to “cultivate the spirit of love for and loyalty to each other, and the Order of Knights Templar, and the reciprocal consideration due the order.” With that in mind, the Beauceant in 1957 adopted the Commandery’s Knights Templar Eye Foundation as their official charity. Since that time, they have donated over three million dollars to the Eye Foundation.

Today’s Beauceant is an order with a long history of support to the Commandery, one that has proven to be a source of pleasure and benefit both to them and to the Sir Knights. It is a history they are proud of and one they wish to maintain. Therefore, they continue to cheerfully fulfill requests to assist with entertainment and hospitality at any level of their organization.

For Questions or Comments regarding Membership
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Courteously,

David J. Kussman, GCT

Grand Master